

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE CCL#2 DOCKET - June 2, 2020

In accordance with the recently approved COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Bell County Judiciary, we will begin to hear non-essential hearings after June 1, 2020.

ALTHOUGH WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN JUNE 1, 2020, WE WILL NOT RESUME UNTIL THE WEEK OF JUNE 8, 2020

Jury Trials - All Jury Trials and Jury Trial Docket Calls scheduled through August 1, 2020, will be rescheduled to later dates. The Court Coordinator will give notice of the new settings.

CASES OTHER THAN JURY TRIALS BEGINNING 06/08/20

Pleas in cases in which the defendant is out on bond .

Defendants represented by counsel - Cases will be grouped together based upon defense counsel and assigned specific times each day. Defendants should appear promptly at the assigned time and not before. Defendants should check in at the court coordinator upon arrival. If a case is not going to proceed to plea, counsel should file for continuance and serve the prosecutor with notice prior to the day of plea. If the plea is reset, defense counsel should advise the defendant not to appear. Plea paperwork should be completed and delivered to the court coordinator prior to the assigned time for the plea. Defense counsel may appear remotely or at the courthouse. Remote appearance options will also be available at the courthouse as well. **THIS PROCESS WILL REQUIRE GREATER COMMUNICATION THAN THE USUAL PROCESS. PLEASE KEEP THE COURT COORDINATOR ADVISED AS TO THE STATUS OF CASES.**

EVERYONE APPEARING AT THE COURTHOUSE WILL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN FOR THE BELL COUNTY JUDICIARY, WHICH INCLUDES THE WEARING OF A MASK, AS WELL AS OTHER PRECAUTIONS

Defendants not represented by counsel - Pro Se - Pro Se cases set in June will be assigned new dates. Bond companies should advise clients not to appear. The cases will resume in July. Further instructions will be forthcoming. If a pro se defendant who is on bond has some urgent need to proceed on their case, contact the Court and reasonable accommodations will be made when possible.

Defendants in Jail

Jail pleas will continue in the same manner as the past few weeks.

Pretrial and Revocation Announcements

Attorneys should use Case Setting Forms and Agreed Motions for Continuance to make pretrial and revocation announcements. Defendant's signature on Case Setting Forms will not be required.

Defendants should not appear at the Wednesday 1:15 p.m. docket for pretrial and revocation announcements set in the month of June. If a defendant is not represented by counsel, the bond company may contact the County Court Coordinator to get a new pretrial or revocation announcement date.

During this time Case Setting Forms and Motions for Continuance may be delivered to the County Court Coordinator by fax at (254)933-5906 or by email at CountyCrtCoor@bellcounty.texas.gov

Wednesday Afternoon Special Hearings

All hearings other than the 1:15 p.m. Pretrial and Revocation Announcement scheduled for June will be rescheduled. The Court Coordinator will give notice of the new court dates.

VULNERABLE POPULATION

If you feel that you are part of the vulnerable population, please contact the Court to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy are considered to be vulnerable populations.